

Franchise Tax Board Reports on Child Support Automation Project

Cathy Cleek, FTB's CIO and Sponsor for the California Child Support Automation System Project reported on the progress of the project at the June 19 meeting of the Franchise Tax Board. "I am happy to report that the joint teams of FTB, the Department of Child Support Services, and our vendors are on track to meet all requirements so that beginning September 2006 the annual \$200+ million federal penalties will not be assessed," said Ms. Cleek.

"I'd like to commend Cathy and the staff of the FTB for having gotten this close to pulling off probably the greatest computer turnaround in this state. As many of you know, child support automation goes back to the 1970s. After several failed attempts, I think the legislature did the right thing and consolidated the operation under the FTB who courageously stepped up to run this project," said Director of the Department of Finance and FTB Member Michael C. Genest.

To meet the federal requirements – the state had to develop two systems: a state disbursement system and a "statewide" child support enforcement system.

The State Disbursement Unit is up and operational for all 58 counties in California. Los Angeles was the final county to implement in May 2006. The results to date have been 4.5 million payments and \$889 million in collections as of June 19, 2006.

The Child Support Enforcement system will be considered a "statewide" system after two releases we call 1.3 and 1.4, planned for August and September of this year.

In 1999, the California Legislature gave the FTB the responsibility for procuring, developing, and implementing the California Child Support Automation Development Project. The California Child Support Automation System (CCSAS) Project was initiated to create a single statewide child support system that meets state and federal requirements and delivers effective and efficient services to all users and customers of the project.

The CCSAS exemplifies the ability of state entities - DCSS and FTB - to work together to develop an automated system that will give state and local officials the necessary tools to better serve the public.